LOCAL MISCELLANY.

MUNICIPAL CONTESTS.

GEN. BARLOW'S VIEWS IN REGARD TO STREET CLEANING—OTHER VEXED QUESTIONS.

At the meeting on Monday of the Aldermanic Committee to consider the Mayor's communication on the Street-Cleaning Bureau, Alderman Cooper stated that he had been informed that Gen. Barlow had made a report on the subject to the Legislative Committee which had been suppressed, and Alderman Ottendorfer was requested to consult with Gen. Barlow before again calling the Committee together. Gen. Barlow told a TRIBUNE reporter yesterday that the statement of Alderman Cooper went a little too far. He had given no written opinion, though as counsel for the Committee he had expressed his views freely to the members in conversation, and in some letters which he had written them. The investigation had taken place in this city, but the report was made in Albany; with the latter he had had nothing to do. He believed, and had said to the Committee, that the testimony conclusively proved gross neglect of duty on the part of the Police Commissioners, and this constituted a misdemeanor of sufficient magnitude to warrant removal from office. He thought nothing worse than neglect had been shown, but that was of too plain a character to be denied or explained away. Under a better administration, the Commissioners would without doubt be removed. Gen. Barlow had not yet been consulted by Alderman Ottendorfer in reference to the matter.

The contest for the care and maintenance of the new Court House has not yet been settled. Controller Green went yesterday with the new Commissioners to the Clerk of the Supervisors and demanded the keys of the Supervisors' rooms. They were refused on the ground that he had been instructed that under the Consolidation act, Commissioner Van Nort had charge of the building, and that the Commissioners of the new Court House were appointed for its completion and not for its care and maintenance. Mayor Havemeyer having been asked for what purpose he appointed the Commissioners agreed with this latter view. In 1872 Controller Green wrote a letter in which he declared that the old Court House Commissioners did not have charge of the care and maintenance of the building, but that the Supervisors had control of the appointments.

By a resolution of the Board of Supervisors at their last meeting Messrs. Strahan and Porter were requested to give an opinion at their next meeting in regard to the constitutionality of the Consolidation act. The Counsel to the Corporation, E. Delafield Smith and Mr. Strahan, said yesterday that they had not received a copy of the resolution, nor had their opinion been asked in regard to the act in question.

Mayor Havemeyer received yesterday a certified copy of the testimony against the Commissioners of Charities and Correction presented to the Grand Jury. He will proceed to examine it carefully, and then decide on his future action in the premises.

Michael J. Farley, the new Supervisor of *The City Record*, entered on his duties yesterday. His former position, that of Private Secretary to the Mayor, has not yet been filled, but there is no lack of candidates.

FRICTION IN THE OIL TRADE.

A CONTEST BETWEEN THE COOPERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION AND THE EMPLOYERS.

The trouble between the journeymen coopers and their employers has a far wider scope than has been understood by those outside the trade. According to the statements of the employers, the journeymen had become not only arbitrary but almost tyrannical, and a climax was reached about a month ago when the workmen refused to allow Charles Pratt of Pratt's Astral Oil Works, Williamsburgh, to purchase 1,000 machine-made barrels wherewith to fill an order, notwithstanding the fact that the coopers were unable to furnish the barrels themselves, and were aware that the firm would be heavy losers by delay. Pratt accordingly dismissed all his coopers, and hired a number of non-society men. The society coopers attempted force, but finally were compelled to succumb, a number of them returning to their work on special terms, the principal of which was their withdrawal from the Society. The cause of the present trouble with the journeymen coopers, according to the employers' statements, appears to be that Lockwood Bros. & Holly, the General Inspectors of oil, detailed a number of men not connected with the Society to act as special inspectors of the shipments of oil. These inspectors have the power to reject any barrels, while being shipped, that they consider imperfect. The shippers generally send with the inspector a cooper, whose duty it is to make the barrel sound at once, if such a thing is possible; if not, the barrel is rejected and sent back. Last week one of these non-society inspectors was sent to the Weehawken Oil Works, and, during the inspection of a number of barrels of oil that were being shipped, one of the regular journeymen coopers employed in the works was detailed to perform the necessary repairs. The cooper refused to make the repairs, on the ground that the rules of the Society forbade his working with non-society men. In this refusal he was upheld by all the coopers employed at the Works; whereupon Mr. Sweet, the Superintendent, discharged every journeyman cooper, and the Company paid them off the next day. The Superintendent then proceeded to employ non-society men, and he informed a TRIBUNE reporter yesterday that he had all the men he could set to work, and had applications for employment from several others. There was no objection on the part of the Company to the wages demanded by the men, the same amount ($3 50 per day) being paid to the newly hired hands; but the Company would not submit to the rules laid down by the Society, which, among other things, dictated who should be employed as laborers and what duties they should perform. Having obtained all the journeymen he required under the present excitement, he had no fear of being short of help at any time during the season.

The journeymen, through their principal officer, George Bradley, give another side to the question. They say that for some time the employers have been infringing on the rights of the journeymen, making them perform all the hard work and giving the profitable part to laborers, whom they could hire for $1 50 per day. Among other things, the employers would hire laborers to close up filled barrels, and yet, if any of them should afterward leak, the coopers would have to make the repairs. The employers had formed a combination to drive out the Society men, and the placing of non-society inspectors over them was only a part of this plan. As they knew the Society coopers would not submit to such an invasion of their rights, they found in the opposition an excuse for throwing the men out of work. Among the firms so acting are the following: Charles Pratt, Rockafeller, Sone & Fleming, Burke, Lockwood, A. T. Briggs, and the Weehawken Oil Works. The coopers belonging to the Society have been warned of the lock-out, and directed to keep away from all the premises belonging to those firms. Pratt, Rockafeller, and Sone & Fleming want all the hands to take an oath, or forfeit a deposit of $50, that they will renounce their allegiance to the Coopers' International Union, and give 30 days' notice before leaving their employ. The other firms demand the same rules, but do not insist upon the oath, being satisfied with an agreement in writing. The Coopers' International Union believes that it is strong enough to resist such arbitrary dictation, and the members think that before the season is over the firms will go about begging for journeymen coopers to work for them.

It was rumored yesterday that the sugar-houses were expected soon to establish similar rules to those adopted by the oil men, with reference to their coopers, and in the event of a refusal to agree to the terms, a general lock-out is expected.

A meeting of the Produce Exchange was held yesterday to define the position of the Exchange with regard to the recent disagreement between employers in the petroleum trade and the men of the Coopers' International Union. B. W. Floyd presided. It was resolved that the members of the Exchange interested in the petroleum trade regard the position taken by employers in the controversy as just and reasonable, and support and sympathy were tendered to them.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING—THE ERECTION OF A BUILDING POSTPONED.

The fifty-third annual meeting of the Mercantile Library Association was held at Clinton Hall last evening. Charles S. Arthur, President of the Association, occupied the chair. After the reading and approval of the minutes of the last annual meeting, the report of the trustees of the Clinton Hall Association was read and accepted. This Association, which has the charge of providing the building for the library, reported that there was $41,152 52 in the contingent fund for the erection of a fire-proof building. They stated, however, that under present circumstances it would be very disadvantageous for them to erect a new building. The report of the treasurer was then read by William H. Guyon, showing the receipts during the past year to have been $36,371 98, while the expenditures amounted to $35,754 67, leaving a balance in hand on May 1, 1874, of $617 41. The President followed with the annual report of the Board of Directors of the Mercantile Library Association. From this it appeared that there are now, exclusive of pamphlets, &c., 147,578 volumes in the library, being an increase over the past year of 4,395 volumes. The total number of books given out during the year was 204,652 volumes, of which 154,265 were issued at the main library and 144,576 at the Liberty-st. branch. The daily average circulation of books was 654. The largest daily circulation was on Jan. 24, when 1,342 books were issued, and the smallest on April 23, when 332 were loaned. The circulation of books in foreign languages amounted to 15,598. The number of magazines issued during the year was 6,839. In regard to the opening of the reading room on Sundays, the report stated that the directors, after two years' trial of the matter, had come to the conclusion that it was a failure. Very few people have availed themselves of the privilege, and these have been, with few exceptions, middle-aged men, and not young clerks, for whose benefit the innovation was designed. The attendance on Sundays during the past year was only 27 out of 10,800 members, or less than one per cent. The roll of membership shows a decrease of 884.

The report of the Institution for the Savings of Merchants' Clerks, established by the Chamber of Commerce in 1848, shows it to be in a flourishing condition. There were $3,467,228 93 of deposits on hand on May 1, 1874, and a surplus of $278,286 14. During the past year an extra dividend was paid depositors. Upon the acceptance of the report the meeting was adjourned. An election for four directors will be held on Tuesday next at Clinton Hall.

BY-PLAY IN BROOKLYN POLITICS.

MR. SCHROEDER DENIES THE RIGHT OF THE ALDERMEN TO APPOINT HIS SUCCESSOR.

"Who is to succeed Controller Schroeder?" is the main question among the politicians of Brooklyn. The Controller said yesterday that he had sent his resignation to Mayor Hunter, believing that the latter had power to nominate his successor, but that if the Board of Aldermen were to assume the power of appointment, which he did not believe was vested in them, he should withdraw his resignation. This decision of the Controller is understood to have proceeded from an understanding which was had at the conference last Saturday night, when Ripley Ropes was a candidate for the office. Mr. Ropes is also understood to be the candidate of Mayor Hunter, who has been unable to obtain Mr. Farrington's acceptance of the place. The acceptance of Mr. Schroeder's resignation by the Board of Aldermen was a surprise to him, and, contrary to his view of the matter, was regarded by them as settling the question of the resignation. But Mr. Schroeder did not so regard it, and sent his resignation to City Clerk Bishop, under the impression, as he states, that every communication sent to the Mayor must be sent to him as a simple matter of form. He denies that it implied that the Common Council had exclusive authority in the matter. This is the Controller's view. Others regard it differently, and under the impression that the Common Council had the power of appointment, a caucus of the Democratic members was held, and S. W. F. Odell was nominated as their choice for the succession. It was intended to have his appointment carried through by the Common Council on Monday, but the tactics of the Republican members deferred action at that time. Mr. Ropes, it is stated, has signified his intention of retiring from the presidency of the Trust Company—a position to which he has just been reelected, and which, according to the provisions of the new Charter, he could not fill if he should be appointed Treasurer so long as the Trust Company held a portion of the city funds. Mayor Hunter said yesterday that he had no doubt that he had power to nominate and the Aldermen to confirm a successor to Mr. Schroeder. It was stated that if Mayor Hunter should fail to nominate Mr. Odell, the Aldermen, under the Charter, which they believe delegates to them the power of appointment, will ballot for a Controller at their next meeting and elect Mr. Odell, who is the choice of the majority of the members.

SAMANA BAY COMPANY ASSETS.

A RECEIVER OF ITS NEW-YORK PROPERTY ASKED FOR.

Judge Donohue of the Supreme Court listened yesterday in Chambers to the petition of William Rowland, a creditor of the Samana Bay Company, by which the Company was directed to show cause why James E. Ward should not be appointed receiver of its property in this State. The order was directed to Paul N. Spofford, Wm. G. Fargo, Lenardo Delmonte, and Frederick Schuschardt, and the petition of Rowland, on which the order was granted sets forth that there was $25,000 of the property of the Company in the city and State; that the Company owed him $9,801; that the Company was called into existence by a decree of the Dominican Republic granting a lease of the Peninsula and Bay of Samana, and that it was dissolved by the same power, namely: A pronunciamiento of Gen. Ignacio Gonzales, President of the Dominican Republic, and that nothing now remained but to appoint a receiver, who should collect the New-York assets and distribute them among the local creditors and stockholders. Mr. Goodrich, as counsel for the petitioner, read the paper, which was opposed by the Company, several of its stockholders, and Paul N. Spofford, who was not only a leading Director but an attaching creditor to the extent of $50,000.

Mr. Candler appeared for Mr. Spofford, and his argument embraced the following points: The claim of Rowland is disputed as a valid claim. The assets of the Company are larger than the liabilities. The petition nowhere alleges insolvency, and the Company, as a matter of fact, has not been dissolved, and there is to be a meeting of the stockholders directly. As to the manifesto of Gen. Gonzales, he does not call himself President, but "General of the Armies and Supreme Chief of the Republic," and moreover his act was that simply of a General, not of a regular executive head of a regular Government, and was not confirmed by the Legislature of the people, as the convention was. To declare the Company dissolved was beyond the power of the Court, at any rate, in this summary proceeding; the only proper way was by a regular suit, in which all interests could be represented. To do so in this way would be to deprive active and energetic creditors of the advantages which their superior energy had earned.

Mr. Goodnet said that there were in fact two companies, one in Santo Domingo, which owed all the debts, and one in New-York, which owned all the property. When they applied to the Company in Santo Domingo the answer was, "We have no property; the New-York Company has all the property." When they sued the New-York Company the answer was that the Company had dissolved. When they applied to the United States Courts to make the Company bankrupt, the answer was: "We are a foreign company; you must go across the street and avail yourself of the State law on foreign companies." And finally, when they went to the State Courts, the Company put in an answer that they were not dissolved, and Mr. Spofford, the chief of the Samana enterprise, opposed the petition for a receiver on the ground that he was entitled to priority, having secured himself by an attachment on the Company's property. Decision reserved.

PRIVILEGES OF ESCAPED CONVICTS.

A NEW TRIAL ASKED FOR GENET AND SHARKEY.

There were arguments yesterday in the General Term of the Supreme Court in the cases of Harry Genet and Wm. J. Sharkey, the escaped convicts, the former of whom was convicted of false pretenses in obtaining the signature of the Mayor to a bill against the city with intent to defraud, and the latter of murder in the first degree in the killing of Robert Dunn. After Genet's escape Judge Daniels was asked to sign a bill of exceptions, with a view to procuring a new trial, but he refused in a long and carefully prepared opinion, in which he expressed the view that it would be contrary to public policy to allow fugitive convicts to defy the Courts, and yet have the Courts set in motion to review their sentence; that Genet could hardly be entitled to a new trial. The motion yesterday was for a mandamus to compel him to sign and settle the bill. Messrs. Beach, Waterbury and Brooks argued the case for Genet, as also for Sharkey, in whose case a writ of error had been taken out and a stay of proceedings granted for the purpose of this argument.

Mr. Phelps, who appeared of course on behalf of the people, moved to dismiss the writ of error, and the same points being raised in each case, they were argued together. Mr. Phelps claimed that neither Genet nor Sharkey was entitled to a review of alleged errors on trial after escaping from custody and jurisdiction. It would be a farce to go again through the trial and order the sentence to take effect, as the prisoner could not be hanged until he was caught anyway, and, on the other hand, if a new trial should be ordered there was no one to try. Mr. Phelps cited Maine and Massachusetts decisions in support of these views. In Genet's case particularly there was nothing on which a writ of error could be founded, as the accused escaped before judgment, and the Court could not hear the bill of exceptions until after judgment.

The arguments on the other side put the question not as a matter of favor to the defendants, but as a statutory right; that though they were in contempt of Court, and could not initiate aggressive measures, they were entitled to protection and justice, and these demand a review of the trials. Decision reserved.

UNIVERSAL PEACE UNION.

CELEBRATION OF THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The eighth anniversary of the American Branch of the Universal Peace Union was celebrated yesterday in Plympton Hall, Alfred H. Love presiding. The annual report noted the very general peace which has existed in the world during the year, while lamenting the Cuban disturbances, the Ashantee war, and the difficulties in Spain. The plans for the permanent establishment of universal peace were presented under two divisions, as an educational measure that should bring all mankind to the consciousness of the value of peace and the means whereby it may become universal, and the establishment of courts of arbitration, local, national, and international. A series of resolutions, prepared by a Committee consisting of Dr. Hallock, James M. Spier, Charles B. Doyo, and Maggie Onderdonk, were adopted. They deny the right of men to deprive their fellows of life by any means or for any cause; urge the discontinuance of a standing army; recommend parents to use great care not to arouse the martial spirit in their children; welcome the Mennonites to America; protest against the Arkansas strife; advise the reconstruction of the police system, and praise the women's war against the liquor traffic. Reports were read from several State organizations; also letters from workingmen and from friends of the Society unable to be present.

In the afternoon officers were elected, as follows:

President—Alfred H. Love, Philadelphia.

Vice-Presidents—Lucretia Mott, Pennsylvania; William Chase, Rhode Island; James M. Pershes, New-Jersey; Zenobia P. White, Rhode Island; Julia Ward Howe, Massachusetts; J. K. H. Wilcox, New-York; Jonathan Whipple, Connecticut; E. D. Draper, Massachusetts; A. M. Powell, New-York; Robert Dale Owen, New-York; Clemence S. Lozier, M. D., New-York; J. Vincenzio, Spain; Frederick Passy, France; P. Santallier, France; Michael Chevalier, France; Henry Richard, England; Levi K. Joslyn, Rhode Island; Joseph A. Dugdale, Iowa; E. H. Heywood, Massachusetts; J. B. Miles, Massachusetts; Bryan J. Butts, Massachusetts; Asa Bullon, Massachusetts; John W. Onderdonk, New-York; Gerrit Smith, New-York; Daniel H. H. Ginn; Henry Bellani, France; Phebe A. Hanaford, New-Jersey; William Lloyd Garrison, Massachusetts; Robert F. Wallcut, Massachusetts; Gideon Frost, New-York; Edward Crommey, New-York; Frederick W. Evans, New-York.

Secretaries—Henry J. Child, M. D., Pennsylvania; Lydia A. Schofield, Pennsylvania; Albert Wacham, New-York; L. D. Blake, New-York; Z. C. Whipple, Connecticut; Elizabeth Underhill, New-York.

Treasurer—Charles W. Pierce, Philadelphia.

An executive committee of 33 members was also appointed. During the day sessions a large number of addresses were made. Among the speakers were Mrs. Lillie D. Blake, James M. Spier, A. H. Love, E. H. Haywood, John J. Coops, Antoinette Doolittle, Dr. Harmon, Dr. Somerby, Elder F. W. Evans, the Rev. John Q. Evans, Amanda Deyo, Caroline Soule, and Phebe A. Hanaford.

The evening session was called to order at 8 o'clock. The President read and commented on Representative Roberts's resolutions favoring arbitration as the proper means of settling difficulties between nations, and said that the resolutions, as passed, were in nearly the exact form in which they were recommended by members of the Peace Union, in this city, a week ago. Speeches were also made by Frederick W. Evans, a Shaker from New-Lebanon; Mrs. Sarah E. Somerby, Mr. O. H. Wellington of Kansas, Mrs. E. L. Rose, and others. A collection was taken, and an opportunity was given to sign the constitution. The meeting then adjourned.

A GIFT TO THE BAR ASSOCIATION.

A MEDALLION OF THE HON. WILLIAM M. EVARTS.

The ordinary business of a meeting of the Bar Association was pleasantly broken in upon last evening by the presentation to the Association of a bronze medallion of the Hon. William M. Evarts. An important resolution was also adopted calling attention to the amendments to the State Constitution. In the absence of the President, Charles W. Sandford acted as chairman. The following resolution was presented by Henry Nicoll:

Resolved, That the Standing Committee on the Amendments of the Law be and they are hereby directed to report to this Association at its next stated meeting what action shall be taken by this Association in relation to the amendments to the Constitution of this State which are to be acted upon by the people at the next general election.

The resolution was adopted without discussion, Mr. Nicoll advocating it very briefly as a matter of the greatest importance, and one to which the attention of the people should be called. Charles O'Conor is Chairman of the Committee mentioned. Thomas H. Hartwell, Charles A. Hamilton, Edward H. Schell, and Manning C. Wells were elected members of the Association.

The attention of the members was then directed by Mr. Nicoll to a large medallion of William M. Evarts. Mr. Nicoll, in presenting it to the Association, said:

A number of gentlemen, members of the Association, have succeeded in securing this bronze large portrait and ask its acceptance by the Association. It is now on our walls, and I think it will be admitted to be a most admirable likeness of Mr. Evarts. The clever artist by whom it was executed succeeded in obtaining a photographic profile from which this medallion has been made, without even the knowledge of Mr. Evarts. We are satisfied that it will give pleasure to you to have hung upon your walls the likeness of a gentleman so distinguished in his profession, who is one of the founders of this Association, and who has never ceased to take a most active interest in its welfare.

This was received with great applause, and a resolution expressing the glad acceptance of the gift was passed unanimously. Mr. Evarts had received a hint of what was to take place and modestly stayed away. The gift is a bronze medallion portrait, a little larger than life size, set in an octagonal frame. It was executed by William Miller.

NEW-YORK MUD ANALYZED.

RESULT OF THE INVESTIGATIONS OF A SANITARY INSPECTOR—SAMPLES FROM FIFTH-AVE., BROADWAY, AND ELSEWHERE.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector Waller has been engaged for some time in making analyses of street mud, stable straw, and other substances, the samples being very wet when taken, but all air-dried before being submitted to analysis. The following was the result:

No.	Locality.	Water.	Percentages of Organic and Vol. Matter.	Percentages of Mineral Matter.	Percentages of Nitrogen.
1	6th-ave. at 30th-st	4.265	35.735	60.000	0.56
2	Front of Fifth Avenue Hotel	3.303	29.576	66.721	0.36
3	Broadway at Canal-st	3.853	37.572	58.575	....
3	Broadway at Canal-st	2.690	35.260	62.150	0.34
4	3d-ave. at 50th-st	1.822	21.472	76.706	0.25
5	Grand and Madison-sts	2.620	32.622	64.758	0.34
6	Rivington and Willett-sts	2.325	28.359	69.316	0.28
7	7th-ave. at 53d-st	0.697	5.841	93.462	0.084
8	Avenue A at 23d-st	0.631	16.501	82.948	0.168
9	9th-ave. at 23d-st	7.131	35.674	56.855	0.448
10	Broadway at 14th-st	3.909	33.711	62.380	0.392
11	Avenue C at 10th-st	2.069	29.060	68.350	0.84
12	8th-ave. at 14th-st	3.101	28.720	68.179	0.364

The determinations of water, organic and volatile matter, and mineral matter on Nos. 3 and 11 were made on the samples after sifting. With the others those determinations were made before sifting. The figures for organic and volatile matter are probably a little too low, as metallic iron was observed to be present, which absorbed oxygen during ignition. The ash was in all cases quite red from the presence of iron. The tests for sulphuretted hydrogen were made after air-drying and sifting, so that the indications were not so decided as they probably would have been had the test been made on the mud when still moistened fresh from the street. No. 7 appeared to have been taken from a spot where some sand and mortar had been spilled. No. 8 contained coal dust. No. 11 had a very offensive odor. In testing for sulphuretted hydrogen, its presence was detected in slight quantities in Nos. 3, 5, 9, 10, and 11.

The Board of Health received from Health Inspector Tracy yesterday a report which states that the streets in and about the Five Points are in a "horrible condition," presenting a succession of holes and hillocks, the former being filled with water and decaying substances. In consequence of this condition of the streets there has been an increase of 25 per cent of phthisis pulmonalis. In wet weather the streets are from four to ten inches deep in mud, and in dry weather the dust is almost unbearable, and is the cause of opthalmic and throat diseases. He recommends that the streets be paved as soon as possible, as a measure of sanitary precaution. A copy of the report will be forwarded to the Department of Public Works with a request from the Board that the recommendations be complied with.

WALL-ST. EPISODES.

An irregular stock market without special incidents was the feature in Wall-st. yesterday. Canada Southern Railway matters excited some interest, and for a time exercised a depressing effect upon the market. Messrs. Musgrave & Co., who obtained the attachment of the property, were reluctant to impart any information, as they did not wish to injure the credit of the Company, their only object being to protect their rights. Deputy Sheriff Keese said, however, that the rolling stock of the Company had been attached near Buffalo, Detroit, and wherever it could be found in this State, so that the Company was literally tied up. Its books, papers, bonds, and everything movable was in the possession of the sheriff. Matters being in such a condition that the road cannot do any business, it is expected that a settlement will be made to-day.

No new developments are noticeable in Erie, although Messrs. McHenry and Barlow were in earnest consultation yesterday.

At the Stock Exchange there was much interest manifested in the installation of the newly-elected officers. The retiring President, Mr. Chapman, and the President-elect, George H. Brodhead, Secretary B. O. White, and the other officers made speeches. There will be no first call to-day, in order that members may have an opportunity of attending the funeral of Jacob Hays.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company elected yesterday the following Board of Managers: Charles N. Talbot, A. A. Low, Robert Lenox Kennedy, James L. Halstead, Legrand B. Cannon, James P. Taylor, Thos. Cornell, Thomas Dickson, John Jacob Astor, Robert M. Olyphant, George Cabot Ward, J. Pierpont Morgan, and W. J. Hoppin. Officers were elected as follows: Thos. Dickson, President; James C. Hartt, Treasurer, and George L. Haight, Secretary.

A PECULIAR WRECKING CASE.

A novel case came on for trial, yesterday, in the United States Circuit Court, before Judge Shipman, action in it being brought to recover about $20,000 damages for alleged neglect of duty on the part of a wrecking company. The case is that of William G. Bartlett and others agt. The Coast Wrecking Company of the City of New York, and the complaint is substantially as follows: The plaintiffs were the owners of the schooner Niagara, valued at about $30,000, which with a cargo of cotton worth $50,000, was wrecked on the coast of Cape Hatteras, in January, 1871. The defendant, knowing the condition of the schooner, and that with "prompt and reasonable skill, and the use of the usual and proper wrecking materials, the vessel could be got off" from the coast, represented to the plaintiffs that the Company had the necessary apparatus, and could restore the schooner and cargo to her owners. The schooner was, therefore, surrendered to the defendant, who, in consideration of a certain salvage, undertook and promised to furnish suitable apparatus, and to begin immediately the work of saving the schooner and her cargo. The defendant, however, failed to supply the necessary appliances, and promptly to begin work, and on account of such failure the schooner was lost, though her cargo was saved. The answer is the usual general issue, and it is said that this is the first case ever brought against a wrecking company for neglect of duty. Owen, Nash & Gray for the plaintiffs, and Benedict & Howe for the defendant.

THE CHEAP TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION.

The Directors of the New-York Cheap Transportation Association held their regular monthly meeting yesterday afternoon. The Committee on Membership announced that 54 names had been added to the roll. A report was received from the Committee on Railroads. It advocated the plan of establishing a through railroad to the West for the exclusive purpose of transporting freight. The Committee thought this plan would secure both rapid and cheap transportation. The Committee on Legislation reported that they had prepared a bill for the purpose of creating a board of railroad commissioners for the State of New-York similar to the one existing in Massachusetts, and that it had never been reported by the Railway Committees of the Assembly and Senate. In relation to the Gardner bill, the Committee said: "Communities, like individuals, may pay too much for advantages and pleasures, and it is very questionable indeed whether, in passing the Gardner bill, the State of New-York has not paid very far too much of the properties and interests of the City of New-York for the facilities of rapid transportation for its inhabitants." A committee of three was appointed to confer with committees of merchants on the question of cheap transportation.

HOME NEWS.

THERMOMETER, YESTERDAY, AT HUDNUT'S, IN BROADWAY 9 a. m.—53° Noon—60° 3 p. m.—64° Midnight—48°

PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

St. Nicholas Hotel—Chief-Justice Morrison R. Waite of the United States Supreme Court, the Hon. John M. S. Williams, M. C., of Cambridge, Mass., ex-Gov. James E. English of Connecticut, and Gen. James A. Hall of Maine....*Brevoort House*—The Hon. Samuel Hooper, M. C., of Boston, and J. C. Walker, President of the Charter Oak Fire Insurance Company of Hartford....*Metropolitan Hotel*—Col. E. R. Lathington, U. S. Army....*New-York Hotel*—Ex-State Senator C. H. Adams of Cohoes, N. Y.....*Westminster Hotel*—Miss Susan B. Anthony of Rochester....*Fifth Avenue Hotel*—The Hon. Robert H. Pruyn of Albany....*Windsor Hotel*—Randolph Rogers, the sculptor....*Hoffman House*—Capt. Greenfield of the British Army, and Andrew D. White, President of Cornell University.

NEW-YORK CITY.

The Church of the Heavenly Rest, in Fifth-ave., near Forty-fifth-st., paid, last week, the balance of the debt of $83,000 which has been in liquidation for some time past. This church has only been in existence five years.

Superintendent Matsell has issued an order instructing the police to arrest any person found violating the act recently passed by the Legislature making it a misdemeanor to paste over, destroy, or in any way injure any bill-board, bills, notices, or printed matter thereon relating to theatrical or other lawful business.

Michael Coffey of White Plains, a painter, having done some work upon a house owned by a Mr. Dusenbury of White Plains, but whose business is in this city, came to New-York on Saturday, May 2, to get his pay, and about 6 o'clock p. m. received a check for $40. As it was then too late to call at the bank, it is supposed that he endeavored to get some one to cash the check so that he could pay off his employés on his return home; but from the time he called upon Mr. Dusenbury nothing has been seen or heard of him by his friends, who fear that he has met with foul play.

The new iron steamship Switzerland, belonging to the Red Star line, was inspected by a number of visitors yesterday afternoon. She was built at Newcastle-on-Tyne, is 350 feet in length over all, 40 feet breadth of beam, and 33 feet depth of hold, and is of about 2,800 tons burden. The new steamer has four decks, and is divided by bulkheads into eight water-tight compartments. She is provided with eight life-boats and other life-saving apparatus. The Switzerland will accommodate nearly 150 first and second-class saloon, and about 1,000 steerage passengers. The Switzerland is commanded by Capt. T. V. Heyden, and is manned by 50 men. The steamer will sail for Antwerp on Saturday, and will carry the Belgian mails. The Red Star line are now sending steamers semi-monthly from this port and Philadelphia to Antwerp.

BROOKLYN.

City Treasurer Cunningham reported to the Controller yesterday that there was $2,513,020 59 on hand deposited in 12 banks.

Gov. Dix has announced that he will be present and review the members of the National Guard who will parade on Decoration Day.

Dr. Conkling has been elected President of the Health Board, to serve until the entire Board as constituted by the charter amendments shall be organized.

About 6½ p. m., yesterday, the brick basement wall and chimney of the two-story frame house No. 253 Twenty-third-st., owned by Andrew Markey, and, fortunately, unoccupied, fell with a sudden crash. An excavation had been made for the cellar of an adjoining house. The damage is estimated at $550.

Fire Marshal Thorne, who has been investigating the illuminating fluids sold in this city, has discovered that gasoline, a dangerous liquid, is sold as a safe burning fluid. Two persons have been burned by it severely and another one fatally within the past week. Mr. Thorne states that he will bring the cases of the persons who sell the material to the attention of the Grand Jury.

The question as to the auditing of the Coroners' bills is the subject of controversy. The County Auditor states that he should examine the bills before they are paid by the Supervisors, while the latter claim that the Finance Committee should first act upon the bills, after which they should be sent to the Auditor. This controversy, with the disposition of the Committee to cut down their bills, has made the Coroners desperate and they threaten to sue the county for their pay.

The failure of the Board of Supervisors to order groceries to be given to poor families is causing much suffering. Thomas Hunt of No. 84 Cooper-ave. died yesterday of starvation, and when the police visited his home they found that his wife and three little children were on the verge of starvation also. There was no food in the house and the little ones were crying piteously. The Commissioners of Charities were immediately informed.

LONG ISLAND.

ASTORIA.—S. D. Whitney, a boarding-house keeper in New-York, was arraigned before Recorder Parsells yesterday, with a Mrs. Carter, charged by Mrs. Jane Ryan with having entered her house and taken articles belonging to her. It is stated that Whitney rented a house at Ravenswood, on the river bank, for the accommodation of his boarders. He announced that the house belonged to him, and thus obtained extensive supplies. He soon left, leaving many debts unpaid. It is alleged that last week he returned to Ravenswood, broke into the house occupied formerly by him, and took out some curtains. Whitney was afterward arrested in New-York. The case was opened, but the examination was adjourned until to-day.

LONG ISLAND CITY.—Mayor DeBevoise, the First Ward Improvement bill having become a law, has, under the terms of the act, appointed William Bridge and Dr. Collins as Commissioners to superintend the improvements, and to act in conjunction with the Survey Commissioners....The Long Island Railroad Company will begin running their trains according to the Summer time-table on Monday, the 25th inst. The Boston express trains will be soon placed on the road.

CYPRESS HILLS.—Three painters, one of them named Wm. J. Batterbee, were employed upon a swinging scaffold on a house yesterday, when the rope at one end gave way, and Batterbee was precipitated upon a pile of stones and rubbish, breaking his right leg in two places, dislocating his right shoulder, and fracturing two or three ribs. He is at the hospital in a precarious condition. The other men saved themselves by clinging to the scaffold and ropes.

NEW-JERSEY.

JERSEY CITY.—Petitions were received at the meeting of the Board of Public Works yesterday for a water-main in Clinton-st., and for the reconstruction of the sewer in Monmouth-st. The Committee on Sewers reported the petition of property-owners in Webster-ave., that the sewer could not be built in that street without an application for a new grade. The Committee on Extension reported adversely on the petition for a new water-main in Ernest. The same committee reported favorably on the application for a water-main in Griffith-st. Chief-Engineer Culver nominated S. B. Dougherty as a surveyor for the Board; the nomination was tabled. The request by the Police Commissioners that the accident building at the City Hospital be raised and moved to the line of Washington-st. was referred to the Committee on Public Buildings. The Board of Finance sent in a concurrence in the resolution to improve Summit-ave., and a non-concurrence in the appointment of S. B. Dougherty as Mechanical superintendent. After this was read the nomination of S. B. Dougherty as a surveyor at a salary of $3,000 per annum was taken from the table and confirmed. The contract for furnishing 3,000 tons of anthracite at $5 58 per ton, and 2,000 tons of bituminous coal at $5 37½ per ton, was awarded to Conyngham & Co., if the Board of Finance concur. Commissioner Startup offered a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, providing that a committee be appointed to confer with the authorities of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and be instructed to ascertain whether the elevation of its present tracks above the level of the street is practicable, and what action the Company would propose or take in the premises, and also to ascertain the probable cost of the proposed improvement, and upon what terms, if any, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company would cooperate with the authorities and the people of Jersey City in effecting it....The Board of Aldermen held a meeting last night and balloted for two hours to elect an Overseer of the Poor, without success. The vote stood 6 to 6.... The City Superintendent reports that the number of scholars on the register of the public schools is 19,559, and the average attendance during April 9,248; 132 children were refused admittance because there was no room....Mayor Traphagen sent a communication to the Board of Works yesterday, containing a subpena served on him from the Supreme Court in the suit of John W. Baker against the city for breach of covenant in the Washington-st. contract. Baker claims $50,000 damages. The case was referred to the Corporation Counsel.... James Rile, aged 78 years, fell down stairs at his residence at West Eaddie about a week ago, and sustained injuries which resulted fatally on Monday night....Charles Campbell, a railway conductor, was assaulted in Montgomery-st. by two men on Monday night, and robbed of a silver watch and a small sum of money. There is no clue to the thieves.

NEWARK.—The trial of the city officials was resumed yesterday morning. Mr. Corlandt Parker summed up the evidence on behalf of the defendants in a long speech. Mr. Parker spoke slightingly of those who were urging on the prosecution. He said that there was no law that made the defendants liable for not giving the city the value of its money. The contractors must have intended to defraud the city. The inspectors must not only have been negligent, but intentionally so, in order that the contractors might cheat the city. At least, that is what must be believed in order to convict them. He contended that the contract was kept. As to the use of earth, nothing in the contract forbade it, and its use did not vitiate it. Unless the State had proved that these men obtained money by false estimates with intent to defraud, and combined and conspired for this end the jury must acquit them. Mr. Stainsby, he said, had suffered more than any penalty the jury could inflict by a verdict of guilty. It was as much the duty of the whole council to know all about the estimate, as it was Stainsby's; why were they not all indicted as well as he?.... William Byington, agent for the New-York Mutual Life Insurance Company in this city, has brought suit against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for $5,000 damages. Mr. Byington bought an excursion ticket to Newark from Trenton, and got on a Washington through train at that place to come to Newark. The conductor refused to receive the ticket, and told him he must pay or be put off. Mr. Byington refused to do either, claiming that the ticket had been paid for and entitled him to a passage to Newark. There were no restrictions printed on the ticket, except that it must be used on one continuous train and on the day issued. Mr. Byington got off at New-Brunswick, but not until the conductor and a brakeman attempted to put him off....A second purse of $500, the gift of his army comrades, with a ticket to Denver by Pullman palace cars, has been presented to Police Lieut. Partenfelder....Gen. Plume intends to present a flag to the best-drilled regiment in his brigade....The dead body of a new-born child was found by a rag-picker yesterday morning at Summer and Bloomfield-sts.

ELIZABETH.—County Physician Dr. J. O. Pettit was informed yesterday by John Van Pelt that while out on the meadows the night before with his brother they discovered, hidden among the marshes, the dead body of a man. Dr. Pettit went to the place mentioned and found the body, which was greatly decomposed, and had the appearance of having been in the water for several weeks. The man wore a dark brown coat, dark pantaloons, vest, and a red flannel shirt under a blue checked shirt. He had gray whiskers and beard and was apparently a German, about 35 years of age. In his pockets was $100 in bills and $14 in small change; also, a piece of a German newspaper. The body was removed to the Morgue and the Coroner ordered to hold an inquest. No marks of violence could be found on the body, and it is said that the remains are those of a man who fell overboard at the Port several weeks ago....The Board of Representation of the Fire Department has elected the following officers: President, John Bembridge; Vice-President, Thomas T. Tilton; Secretary, Edward J. Byrne, and Treasurer, H. J. Ward....The City Council, at their regular meeting on Monday night, were visited by temperance ladies, who urged the Council